

REMARKS

Claims 9-28 and 30-32 are pending in the application upon entry of the amendments and new claims. Claim 26 has been amended for consistency and to more particularly describe certain aspects of the invention. Claim 32 has been added to further describe the invention. Claim 29 has been cancelled. Favorable reconsideration in light of the amendments and the remarks which follow is respectfully requested.

The Amendments and Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner's indication that claims 9-25 and 29 contain allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation. Independent claim 26 has been amended to recite the allowable subject matter of claim 29.

The Obviousness Rejection

Claims 26-28, 30 and 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Ziari (US 6,404,542) in view of Modavis (US 5,881,187), and further in view of Land (US 6,067,391). The Examiner states that claim 29 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. Independent claim 26, which is the base claim of claim 29, is amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 29. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 26 is therefore respectfully requested.

With regard to claims 27, 28, 30, and 31, the Examiner rejects these claims because they respectively depend on rejected claim 26. However, in light of the aforementioned amendment of claim 26, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 27, 28, 30, and 31 is respectfully requested.

The Claim Objection

Claim 29 has been objected to. The objection has been rendered moot by the cancellation of claim 29.

Petition for Extension of Time

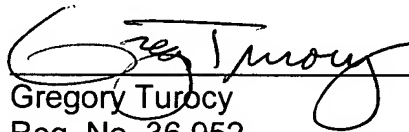
A request for a two month extension of time is hereby made (small entity status has been established).

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

In the event any fees are due in connection with the filing of this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1063.

Respectfully submitted,

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